

Application No.: 09/422,944

Docket No.: 20198-00052-US

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3. (Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sequencing means produce time segments, for controlling transmission and reception, to have substantially equivalent respective mean durations.

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5. (Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the time interval durations are predetermined whilst the time segments durations are random and less than the time interval durations.

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crit.
6. (Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the duration of each said time segment is on average equal to approximately one half of that of the time interval.

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10. (Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said second received signal corresponds to said transmission signal sent by the device and returned by the source of the said received signal, whereby the time difference between the two time markers is obtained compensating for the instantaneous propagation time differences.

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12. (Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said received signal is returned to a source producing said signal.

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14. (Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the signal generator is able to cooperate with the reception processing circuit in order to generate said signal to be returned which is equivalent to the signal received.

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16. (Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the carrier of each signal generated is modulated according to a chosen pulse shape, whose repetition is defined according to a pattern which can be discriminated by correlation of this signal.

19. (Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the positions in time of two successive pulses are separated by a period less than a threshold value, and on average are separated by a period substantially equivalent to one half of said threshold value.

20. (Amended) Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the said carrier frequency is within the gigahertz band.

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the case. Favorable reconsideration of the case is requested.

Withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure is requested in light of the foregoing amendments to the specification

Withdrawal of the rejection of the objection to the abstract of the disclosure is requested in light of the attached new abstract.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112 is requested. The claims have been amended to overcome the issues raised in the Office Action.